

In the Claims

Amend the following claims:

1 1. (Amended) A disk drive, comprising:
2 a storage disk;
AC 3 an actuator arm that moves relative to the storage disk;
4 a load beam secured to the actuator arm;
5 a slider including a data transducer that exchanges information with the storage disk
6 during data transfer operations; and
7 a head suspension that secures the slider to the load beam and positions the slider near the
8 storage disk, the head suspension maintaining the slider pitch at a pitch static attitude of less than
9 zero degrees during the data transfer operations, wherein stiction between the slider and the
10 storage disk is substantially less than if the pitch static attitude was greater than zero degrees
11 during the data transfer operations.

1 2. (Amended) The disk drive of claim 1 wherein the head suspension maintains the
2 slider at a pitch static attitude of between zero and approximately negative two degrees.

A7 1 6. (Amended) The disk drive of claim 1 wherein the slider is a padded slider that
2 includes an air bearing surface and at least one pad that extends below the air bearing surface and
3 contacts the storage disk when the stiction occurs.

AS 1 8. (Amended) A transducer assembly for a disk drive, the disk drive including a storage
2 disk and an actuator arm, the transducer assembly comprising:
3 a slider including a data transducer that exchanges information with the storage disk
4 during data transfer operations;
5 a load beam that attaches to the actuator arm; and
6 a head suspension that secures the slider to the load beam and positions the slider near the
7 storage disk, the head suspension maintaining the slider pitch at a pitch static attitude of less than

8 zero degrees during the data transfer operations, wherein stiction between the slider and the
9 storage disk is substantially less than if the pitch static attitude was greater than zero degrees
10 during the data transfer operations.

1 9. (Amended) The transducer assembly of claim 8 wherein the head suspension
2 maintains the slider at a pitch static attitude of between zero and approximately negative two
3 degrees.

1 11. (Amended) The transducer assembly of claim 8 wherein the head suspension
2 maintains the slider at a pitch static attitude of approximately negative two degrees.

1 14. (Amended) A method of making a disk drive, the method comprising the steps of:
2 providing a storage disk;
3 providing an actuator arm that moves relative to the storage disk;
4 providing a slider including a data transducer that exchanges information with the storage
5 disk during data transfer operations;
6 securing a load beam to the actuator arm; and
7 securing the slider to the load beam with a head suspension, the head suspension
8 maintaining the slider pitch at a pitch static attitude of less than zero degrees during the data
9 transfer operations, wherein stiction between the slider and the storage disk is substantially less
10 than if the pitch static attitude was greater than zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

1 15. (Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the head suspension maintains the
2 slider at a pitch static attitude of between zero and approximately negative two degrees.

1 19. (Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the step of providing a slider includes
2 providing a padded slider that includes an air bearing surface and at least one pad that extends
3 below the air bearing surface and contacts the storage disk when the stiction occurs.

Add the following claims:

1 20. A disk drive, comprising:
2 a storage disk; and
3 a slider including a data transducer that exchanges information with the storage disk
4 during data transfer operations, wherein the slider has a pitch static attitude of less than zero
5 degrees during the data transfer operations, and stiction between the slider and the storage disk is
6 substantially less than if the pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer
7 operations.

1 21. The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the pitch static attitude is between zero and
2 negative two degrees.

1 22. The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the pitch static attitude is between negative
2 one-half degree and negative two degrees.

1 23. The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the pitch static attitude is between negative
2 one-half degree and negative two degrees.

1 24. The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the stiction is at least 50% less than if the
2 pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

1 25. The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the stiction is at least 66% less than if the
2 pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

1 26. The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the stiction is at least 75% less than if the
2 pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

1 27. The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the stiction is at least 2 grams less than if the
2 pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

1 28. The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the stiction is at least 3 grams less than if the
2 pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

1 29. The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the stiction is at least 4 grams less than if the
2 pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

1 30. The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the slider includes an air bearing surface and a
2 pad that extends below the air bearing surface and contacts the storage disk when the stiction
3 occurs.

1 31. A disk drive, comprising:
2 a storage disk; and
3 a slider including a data transducer, an air bearing surface and a plurality of pads, wherein
4 the data transducer exchanges information with the storage disk during data transfer operations,
5 the pads extend from the air bearing surface towards the storage disk, the slider has a pitch static
6 attitude of less than zero degrees during the data transfer operations, stiction between the slider
7 and the storage disk is substantially less than if the pitch static attitude was zero degrees during
8 the data transfer operations, and the pads contact the storage disk when the stiction occurs.

1 32. The disk drive of claim 31 wherein the pitch static attitude is between zero and
2 negative two degrees.

1 33. The disk drive of claim 31 wherein the pitch static attitude is between negative
2 one-half degree and negative two degrees.

1 34. The disk drive of claim 31 wherein the pitch static attitude is between negative
2 one-half degree and negative two degrees.

1 35. The disk drive of claim 31 wherein the stiction is at least 50% less than if the
2 pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

1 36. The disk drive of claim 31 wherein the stiction is at least 66% less than if the
2 pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

1 37. The disk drive of claim 31 wherein the stiction is at least 75% less than if the
2 pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

1 38. The disk drive of claim 31 wherein the stiction is at least 2 grams less than if the
2 pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

1 39. The disk drive of claim 31 wherein the stiction is at least 3 grams less than if the
2 pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

1 40. The disk drive of claim 31 wherein the stiction is at least 4 grams less than if the
2 pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.